

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/678,110

Examiner

Alecia D. Nelson

Applicant(s)

ROSENBERG ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/28/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15, 39-47, 75, 81-85, 87-91, 98-102 (renumbered claims 1-25).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/28/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. ***Claims 15, 39-47, 75, 81-85, 87-91, 98-102*** (now renumbered **claims 1-25**) are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the references used singularly or in combination teach or fairly suggest an apparatus comprising a rotatable member and a sensor coupled to the rotatable member configured to send data associated with the rotation of the rotatable member to an electronic device having a plurality of selectively actuated functions, each of the selectively actuated function being selectable based on a displacement of the rotatable member, wherein the plurality of selectively actuated functions including at least one of controlling a volume for audio output, selecting at least one of a received broadcast station and a channel from multiple stations and channels, and scrolling through a list of possible selections; and an actuator coupled to the rotatable member configured to output haptic force sensations associated with select at least one of the broadcast station and the channel including at least one of a detent sensation and a jolt sensation. While the references teach a plurality of different methods and apparatuses used for generating forces to be feedback to the user including vibrations in pilot simulators, joystick or mouse input devices that generate forces to be applied to the user during operation in a 3-D environment, and even "gun" type input devices used in video games, however there is no disclosure a sensor coupled to

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a rotatable member, wherein a plurality of selectively actuated functions including at least one of controlling a volume for audio output, selecting at least one of a received broadcast station and a channel from multiple stations and channels, and scrolling through a list of possible selections, and an actuator coupled to the rotatable member, wherein the haptic force sensation associated with selecting at least one the broadcast station and the channel including at least one of a detent sensation and a jolt sensation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alecia D. Nelson whose telephone number is 571-272-7771. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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3. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

adn/ADN
March 21, 2005

AMR A. AWAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

